

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

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R 180455Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6780

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK

SUBJ: DISSIDENT INACTIVITY AND SURRENDER MARK TIKKA KHAN'S
VISIT TO BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 1873

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM KARACHI REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

"SUMMARY: DURING ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL TIKKA KHAN'S
BRIEF TOUR OF BALUCHISTAN, DISSIDENT ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A
LOW EBB AND MANY OF THEM REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED TO THE
AUTHORITIES. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT A BASIS IS BEING LAID
FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE BALUCHISTAN INSURGENCY IS "OVER".
END SUMMARY.

1. "TIKKA KHAN ARRIVED IN QUETTA SEPTEMBER 10 FOR A FIVE-DAY
TOUR OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN. HE WAS MET BY
THE CORPS COMMANDER, LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.B. AWAN, WHO
ACCOMPANIED HIM ON HIS ROUNDS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS,
TIKKA KHAN INSPECTED AND ADDRESSED TROOPS STATIONED IN
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MAIWANK, DERA BUGTA, KAHAN, KOHLU, AND BARKHAN, WHICH ARE

TOWNS AND CANTONMENTS IN THE MARRI-BUGTI TRIBAL AGENCY AND LORALAI DISTRICT. ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM THE URDU DAILY MASAWAAT STATED THAT HE ALSO STOPPED IN JHALAWAN DISTRICT, HOME OF THE MENGAL TRIBAL DISSIDENTS. AFTER INSPECTING THE STAFF COLLEGE AT QUETTA, TIKKA KHAN RETURNED TO ISLAMABAD SEPTEMBER 15.

2. "THE LULL IN DISSIDENT ACTIVITY (NO INCIDENT HAD BEEN REPORTED SINCE AUGUST 30) CONTINUED DURING TIKKA KHAN'S TOUR. THE LOCAL PRESS HAD EARLIER GIVEN MODERATE COVERAGE TO THE REPORTED SURRENDER OF SOME 220 MARRI TRIBESMEN (ALONG WITH 21 RIFLES) BETWEEN AUGUST 17 AND SEPTEMBER 4. TIKKA KHAN, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, RECEIVED THE SURRENDER OF NEARLY ONE THOUSAND MARRIS AT VARIOUS STOPS ON HIS ITINERARY. NEWS-PAPER ACCOUNTS GAVE THE NAMES OF THE "RINGLEADERS", WHO WERE SAID TO HAVE ACTED IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S OFFER OF AMNESTY TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEMSELVES UP BEFORE OCTOBER 15. THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE PLEDGED LOYALTY TO PAKISTAN. TIKKA KHAN WELCOMED THE PENITENT DISSIDENTS AS FELLOW MUSLIMS AND PAKISTANIS, AND STATED THAT THE ARMY WAS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE MARRI-BUGTI AREA FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

3. "COMMENT: THE LULL IN DISSIDENT ACTIVITY MAY BE GENUINE. ONE WELL-INFORMED SOURCE TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT THE GOP AUTHORITIES HAD NOT ADVISED NEWSPAPER EDITORS TO PLAY DOWN INCIDENTS; THERE HAD IN FACT BEEN NO INCIDENTS TO REPORT IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THE NUMBER OF MARRI TRIBESMEN WHO HAVE REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED SINCE MID-AUGUST EXCEEDS THE ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MARRI AND MENGAL DISSIDENTS GIVEN TO US BY BALUCHISTAN OFFICIALS DURING OUR VISIT TO QUETTA IN LATE AUGUST. THIS INCONGRUITY, PLUS THE SMALL NUMBER OF RIFLES REPORTEDLY TURNED IN, LEADS US TO QUESTION WHETHER ALL OF THE REPORTED SURRENDERS ARE GENUINE. WE ALSO HEAR SECOND-HAND REPORTS OF THE ARMED FORCES' RELUCTANCE TO GET INVOLVED HEAVILY IN BALUCHISTAN, AS THEY MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO IF THE TIMPO OF INCIDENTS SHOULD PICK UP BEFORE AND AFTER OCTOBER 15 DEADLINE. ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IS THE FREQUENT NUMBER OF "HIGH-LEVEL" MEETINGS DEVOTED TO A POSSIBLE "SETTLEMENT" IN BALUCHISTAN. ALL IN ALL, IT IS JUST POSSIBLE

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THAT THE STAGE IS BEING SET FOR AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE "END" OF THE BALUCHISTAN INSURGENCY SOMETIME BEFORE OCTOBER 15. WHETHER THE IMPRISONED NAP SARDARS AND THE REMAINING DISSIDENTS WILL COOPERATE SEEMS PROBLEMATIC AT THIS JUNCTURE."

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: REPORTS NOW REACHING EMBASSY INDICATE INCREASED GOP MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE HOSTILES. THESE MAY,

HOWEVER, REFLECT INCIDENTS PRIOR TO AUGUST 30. ARMA NOW IN
QUETTA AND EMBASSY WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO INTERPRET PRESS
REPORTS WHEN HE RETURNS SEPTEMBER 19.
BYROADE

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